

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

GENERAL INFORMATION THROUGH QUESTION BOX

Vetch and Crimson Clover.
J. S. T. Amella County: "Which do you consider the better cover crop, vetch or crimson clover? When should I sow?"

You are a little late, but not too late. Get your seed in right away. As to the choice between the two, much depends on the kind of soil you have. An expert tells me that if the soil is a deep sand, vetch will be the better. If it is a soil of a clayey nature, crimson clover will give you the most satisfaction. Crimson clover is a crop that likes a clay soil, although it is not necessary for it to be a heavy clay before it will succeed. This expert says he has seen crimson clover grow real well on sandy land, but other conditions being equal, the vetch will give the most satisfaction as a cover crop on sandy land.

Sinut and Its Cure.
J. M. P. Henrico County: "I have been greatly troubled with sinut in my wheat. Will you kindly give me the formula for treating the seed wheat to prevent this?"

J. C. Hunter, the county agent, sends the following:
One pound of formalin to fifty gallons of water. Use one gallon of this solution for every bushel of seed wheat. Spread the grain on a tight floor, sprinkle with a watering pot, shovel the mass over so as to wet every grain, then shovel into a heap and let stand two hours. The spread out to dry thoroughly.
Be sure the formalin is full strength.

Much Plant Trouble.
Miss M. W. P. Henrico County: "My Japanese hedge and shrubs are just coated with some sort of scale, and the leaves are becoming white with it, and the plants are beginning to turn yellow and some have died. What must I do?"

This is enormous scale. Spray thoroughly, especially the branches, with 25 per cent kerosene emulsion in form of a "mist" spray. Care must be taken not to let the liquid run down the stems and accumulate around them on the surface of the ground, or it may kill the plants.

The Henrico County demonstration agent, J. C. Hunter, will tell you how to make the emulsion, also show you how and when to apply it. Write him at Henrico County Courthouse, where he has recently moved his office.

Poisoning in the Ivy.
L. S. T. Please advise me what to use for poisoning ivy poisoning?

If very severe consult a doctor. If it is a formula he should use, it is affected parts several times a day. Carbolic acid, two grains; resorcin, two grains; bismuth subnitrate, four grains; equal parts water and lime water to make 250 cc.

Best and Easiest Way.
H. C. J. Please tell us the best and easiest way to handle a bad tree in the yard. I have a good crop in my garden, but the leaves are all green, and no indication of its heading. I have been told there is a way.

We're or call the farmer demonstration agent for your county. He will show you the process. If there is not an agent in your county, write to J. C. Hunter, Henrico County Courthouse, Richmond. It would be difficult to write without demonstrating this process. Anyhow, Mr. Hunter will give you all necessary instruction, even if it means to go out of his territory to do it.

About Shade Trees.
A. C. C. G. Henrico County: "My young shade trees, about three to four inches in diameter have some disease. Large patches of the bark are dead. In some instances these dead sections are about an inch around the tree so that they are actually graded and the supply of sap cut off. Thus a number of my trees are dead."

The trees are oak and elm, also sycamore, Norway and silver birch. I referred the above, says:
This is the work of a bark borer. If you cut away the dead bark with a strong sharp knife, you will find the work of the insect, like saw dust, and gouged out places in the body wood of the tree. Round the edges of the injured parts you will find here and there under the bark a flat, brown head. The injury they can do in destroying the sap channels and thus leaving long sections of bark dead, is far greater than would be supposed possible by a few insects. They are responsible for many of the dead trees around cities.

Mr. Hunter says the only way to combat this insect is to keep the trees in a healthy condition and growing so fast, by fertilizing and cultivation, digging around that they can and will outgrow the work of the borer. In other words, make the trees as fast as the borer can damage them.
If you write him he will tell you more about this. Also tell and show you how to care for the injured places on your trees.

He says it takes some tree surgery to do this properly. He also advises to look out for and beware of fake "tree doctors."

Things Up North.
In Maine, according to a rather questionable report, there is a maple tree more than two years old, through the middle of which are two round holes, the tree having grown completely around them. The tree is two feet and a half in diameter and each radiation sticks through on either side, and has not decayed in the least. Old red maple claim to have been there seventy-five years, and maybe some longer. The other ends of the rails are partly grown into a big oak tree, or in several oak trees.

Some Useful Information.
To find the number of gallons of water in a cistern or tank.
If rectangular, multiply the three dimensions in feet together, and multiply the result by 7.48.
If cylindrical, multiply the square of the radius of the base by 2.1416, and that result by 7.48.

To find the number of bushels in a bin:
(Multiply the three dimensions, in feet, together and divide the result by 1.4.)

To find the number of bushels of shelled corn equivalent to a given number of bushels of corn in the ear:
Divide the number of bushels of corn in the ear by two.

To find the measure of the above estimates, reverse the process.
In measuring grain, seeds or small fruits the measure must be stricken (even full).

In measuring corn in the ear, coarse vegetables or large fruits, the measure should be heaped about six inches.

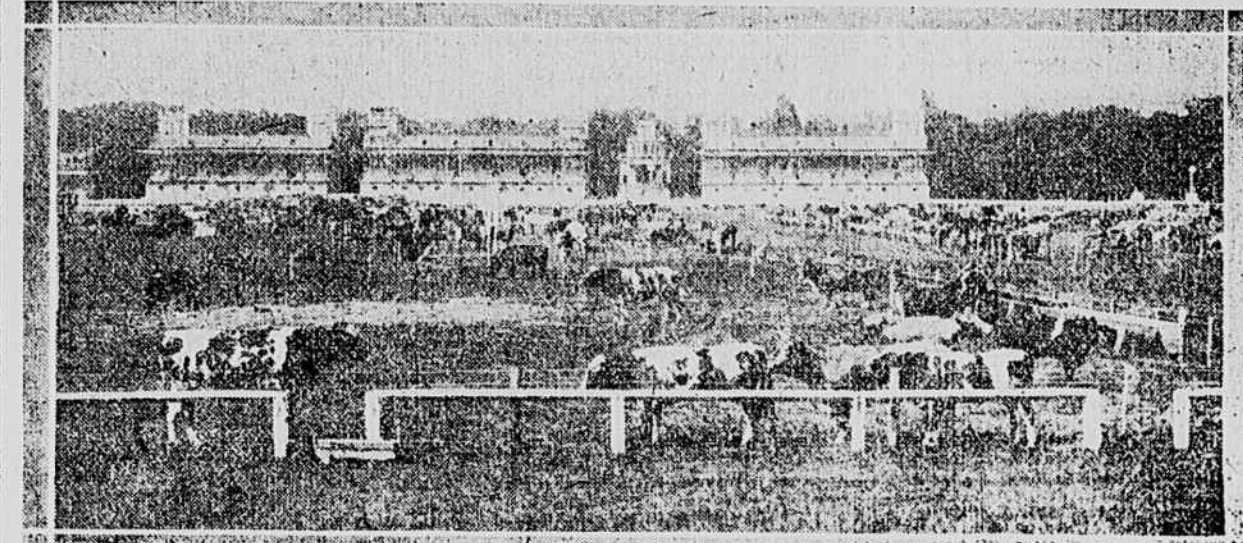
The standard gallon of the United States contains 231 cubic inches, and holds a fraction over 8.33 pounds of distilled water.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

Famous French Track Converted Into Pasture

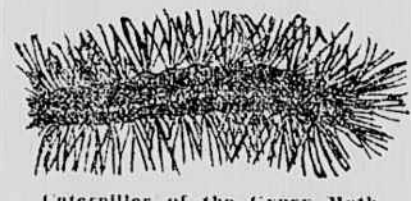


CATTLE PASTURED AT THE LONG CHAMPS RACE TRACK.
PHOTO UNDERWOOD UNDERWOOD—N.Y.

A view of the world famous race course at Longchamps, showing how it has been converted from a place of sport into a pasture, where countless head of cattle to be used for consumption by the French in the vicinity of Paris are now grazing. It was here that most of the fashions which became popular with the fashionable women of America were first seen.

OBSERVATIONS ON SPRAYING

"Plant diseases," says Mr. S. E. Steue, an expert on the subject, "are caused by fungi, bacteria, careless treatment and unfavorable weather. As in animal diseases, the remedy depends to a great extent, on the cause. In general, a constitutional treatment is always in order. Good thrifty plants, well cared for, are less liable to disease."



Caterpillar of the Gypsy Moth.

than neglected ones. Keep the orchard clean, and destroy, as far as practicable, all sources of infection. Many diseases, as, for example, pear blight and peach-yellow, can be kept in check by destroying diseased plants or parts of plants as soon as the trouble is noticed. Wild plants which can harbor and propagate plant diseases should be destroyed. Volunteer apple trees growing near the orchard are a constant source of trouble to the plants. Search all insects of the former class are easily destroyed by some form of stomach poison, while the latter can be killed only by a contact insecticide.

"The same principle applies in large measure to the treatment of injurious insects. Study the habits and prevent, as far as possible, conditions favorable to their propagation or wintering over from one season to another. In treating injurious insects and their destruction by sprays, we may divide them into two classes, those which chew their food, and those which obtain their food by sucking the juices from the plants. Search all insects of the former class are easily destroyed by some form of stomach poison, while the latter can be killed only by a contact insecticide."

"Many people fear danger from poisoning by eating sprayed fruit and plants. It is not advisable to spray plants and fruits with arsenical poisons, but there is no danger from food poisoning. Analyses in the chemical laboratory at the New York Experiment Station have shown that one would have to eat at one time about 250 pounds of sprayed grapes, skins included, in order to get a serious dose of copper. In regard to pasturing cattle in an orchard, no apprehension need be felt, for the reason that they are ordinarily sprayed."

"The warfare against plant diseases and insects varies so much with the conditions of climate, soil, etc., that no hard and fast rule can be laid down as the number of times to spray, nor as to the time of spraying."
The spraying should be thorough, and yet one should avoid using too much to cover trees or foliage well. In spraying, it always pays to have a good outfit. The pump should be large and powerful enough to give sufficient pressure for the proper working of the nozzle. The cylinder, valves and plungers should be of brass or bronze, and should be so constructed that they can be taken apart for cleaning and repairs. In preparing most of the spraying mixtures, glass, stone-ware, or wooden vessels should be used, because the common metal vessels are corroded by a great many of the chemicals used.

"In view of the fact that injurious insects and plant diseases are continually being introduced into new localities, it is of great importance that every one should watch closely any such disease or insect which may come under his observation. If there are any indications that it is of an injurious character, he may save himself and others a great deal of trouble by reporting at once to the experimental station of his State, giving all the information he can in regard to the insect or disease, and sending a specimen, if possible. For example, while the gypsy moth is not a new insect, it is much more destructive in some sections than others, and it will be well for every one to keep a watch for it, and report it if it is seen in fruit or shade trees to be on the look-out for it and destroy it as soon as found. Its occurrence should be reported at once to the State experimental station. This is true of all such injurious pests—whether insects or diseases."

Question Answered.
In reply to an inquiry: The drunks are often charged by the roots of trees. A good plan is to place several thicknesses of tarred paper over the joints of the tree, which is said to prevent the entrance of the roots to some extent. The Carolina hickory and other species of the cottonwood family are very bad about clogging drains, and should not be planted near them.

EXPECT AN ABUNDANCE OF WHITE GRUBS IN 1915

It is well for farmers to busy themselves in time of peace preparing for war. A few words of warning from the pen of Joseph Davis are worthy the attention of all the corn growers. Mr. Davis writes:

The common white grub or grubworm, as they are often called, have for years been recognized as among the most serious pests to farm crops, notably corn and timothy, while strawberries, potatoes and nursery plantings have all been frequently and seriously affected. Probably the most serious outbreak of white grubs occurred in 1912, following an abundance of beetles in 1911. In the corn infested districts it was not unusual to find from forty to sixty grubs in a single hill of corn. Indeed, in a corn field in Iowa, devoted to timothy in 1914, the writer found seventy-seven grubs in an area two and one-half feet square and five inches deep. This really represented less than a single hill of corn, for the hills in this field were three and one-half feet apart. From a personal survey of the infested territory made in 1912 in three States, as well as from reports of farmers and others, we have a very conservative estimate of the damage to corn, timothy, and potatoes in these States, aggregating not less than \$7,000,000. Available records show that May beetles were numerous in 1914, hence we may be reasonably certain that in 1915 the grubs will again be destructive and exceedingly abundant, unless their numbers are materially reduced by natural enemies, by artificial means, or by adverse climatic conditions.

White grubs and May beetles are preyed upon by numerous birds, mammals, and insects, all of which are useful in reducing their numbers. The most important of these enemies are the birds, especially crows and crows blackbirds. Domestic fowls may properly be classed as natural enemies of white grubs. All farm poultry are fond of these insects, and where possible should be given the run of infested fields at plowing time. Turkeys are especially valuable in this regard, and should be kept in the corn fields. Among the mammals which feed on the grubs the skunk is most valuable, and indeed, some farmers attribute the increase in these insects to the decrease in numbers of skunks, which are being killed off by trappers.

An infested field may be cleared of grubs by pasturing it with hogs, which are fond of the insects, and will root to a depth of a foot or more in search of them. Such pasturing should not be delayed later than the first part of October, since the grubs go into their winter quarters, deep in the ground, when the weather becomes cold.

Where it is impracticable to pasture hogs in an infested field much good can be accomplished by fall plowing. The plowing should be done late, but should not be delayed until the ground becomes chilly and frosty, for then the grubs will have come down beyond the reach of the plow. Ordinarily the best time to plow is between October 1 and 15.

Since the beetles usually deposit their eggs in fields of grass, timothy and small grains, the all farm poultry are fond of these insects, and where possible should be given the run of infested fields at plowing time. Turkeys are especially valuable in this regard, and should be kept in the corn fields. Among the mammals which feed on the grubs the skunk is most valuable, and indeed, some farmers attribute the increase in these insects to the decrease in numbers of skunks, which are being killed off by trappers.

The Agricultural Fair.
A Middle West agricultural journal has in a whole sermon in the following:
The agricultural fair has played an important part in the history of our country. It has been an educating factor of no small importance, and as serving to arouse competition and giving recreation and social enjoyment. In this age of agricultural activity, when questions of the farm are being forced to the front, and when the reports from all of the commissions on farm uplift, or in all of the sermons, lectures and addresses delivered at church gatherings and college commencements to the audience upon the dangers and temptations of town and the supreme attractions of farm life—Home and Farm.

Time for Alfalfa.
Time and inoculation are the essential needs of most of the Eastern States for the development of alfalfa. Time is needed to neutralize the sourness of most of the Eastern soils; and inoculation is necessary in order to supply the nitrogen-gathering bacteria, which are of such vital importance to every legume. The discovery of these two greatest needs has brought about the dissemination of tons upon tons of printed matter setting forth the culture requirements of alfalfa, and of extensive campaigns through farmers' agents.

ALFALFA AS A PROFIT CROP

A. M. Soule, who was once a Virginian and did some very fine work at Blackburg, but who is now a Georgian and doing some fine agricultural stunts down in that State, has written a most interesting article on the alfalfa proposition. Mr. Soule says:

"No forage plant has ever been introduced and successfully cultivated in the United States possessed of the general excellence of alfalfa. On lands to which it is adapted, it will yield from three to eight tons of cured hay, and it is decidedly superior in nutritive qualities to red clover, which is generally regarded as one of the best crops that can be grown on the farm. Alfalfa remains permanently in the soil when well sown, three and one-half feet apart, from six to ten years, though there are instances on record where it has grown on the same land for fully fifty years."

"The growth of alfalfa means the material lessening of the cost of crop growing, because seedling is only necessary once in several years, and thereafter the farmer has only to cut and harvest his crop or pasture it."

Let the vehicle dry, then go all over it with a dry rag, removing all sand and dirt, being especially careful around the base of the spokes where they enter in the hub or felloes. Use a coarse brush to clean the seat and corners of the body inside. Put wagon in shed and get two old boxes, just high enough to raise the wheels above the floor. Place these under the bed of the front and back axles and remove the shafts. This is a fast and easy piece of work, so that you can run the wheel on it, trimming so as to admit turning the wheel while you paint. Nail the board end of the board to an upright or support the building about four feet from the floor. Get a small box on which to set your can of paint. Open your can of paint, stir gently with a smooth paddle or stick or five or ten minutes, until you are certain the paint is thoroughly mixed. If too thick, use a very little turpentine, but be very careful not to get it too thin.

The Kind That Grows in Virginia.
down as his judgment directs. When the hay is stored in the barn he has a foodstuff that will replace a large part of the expensive concentrates which it is now necessary to buy on stock farms to supplement the ration of corn and cereal grains raised on the land. In addition to these virtues, it is a good soil and manure builder, belongs to the famous family of leguminous crops which under certain conditions have the remarkable power of gathering free atmosphere nitrogen into their tissues for the nourishment of growing animals, dairy cows and other classes of stock which require large supplies of protein.

"These are but a few of the special qualities which commend this plant to the attention of the farmer. Under these conditions it is but natural that men should strive to grow alfalfa for its successful production would change not only the physical condition of the land on many farms, but greatly improve the financial condition of the owner as well. So many failures have been recorded that some may question the valuable qualities referred to, but it is only just to say that these have not been exaggerated in any sense of the word, nor can they be exaggerated, for there is no plant which can be cultivated on the farm possessed of a greater variety of desirable qualities than alfalfa. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that those who wish to cultivate it should fully appreciate all its peculiarities, for when once secured it will repay the owner for the strivings and heart-burnings to which he was subjected in his efforts to secure a good stand."

"During the first year of its growth alfalfa is delicate. It is nothing like as vigorous as red clover, and if the seed were sown together the chances are that the alfalfa would be crowded out by its more precocious rival. It is not advisable under any circumstances to sow alfalfa with grass, for it will certainly choke it out. The first year alfalfa is quite hardy and will hold its own fairly well against any of its rivals, provided a good stand is obtained in the beginning. It will be well to establish it on a small area, and if it is not fully established by the end of the first year, it is impossible to maintain a partial stand of alfalfa, because weeds and grass get a foothold they spread rapidly, and eventually choke it out unless the field has been established for several years and such plants as remain are possessed of unusual vitality. Where only a partial stand is secured it is better to plow the land up, thoroughly prepare and seed it. Much time and effort have been wasted in attempting to reseed alfalfa on land which was too poor to grow it in the beginning. Alfalfa stands down in that State, has written a most interesting article on the alfalfa proposition. Mr. Soule says:

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The Prudent Man
warned by the ruin now wrought abroad, will see to it that it shall not penetrate to his own hearthstone.
We will throw protection about his accumulations. He will remove, as far as he may, the causes of rivalry, jealousy and bitterness.
In dozens of cases we could cite THE VIRGINIA TRUST COMPANY, by reason of its being executor and trustee, has prevented strife and lawsuits that would have followed if some member of the family had been acting.
Interviews, on the subject of Will-making, cordially invited.
It's our chief business—you know!

Virginia Trust Co.
1106 East Main Street,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.
Known as the "Safe Executor."

You can tell the proper consistency by running the brush up and down on a smooth piece of unpainted board or on the rim of a wheel. Start with the shaft or wheel, paint with as long a stroke as possible. When the shafts and wheels are finished, go to work on the springs, perch pole, axles and beds. The running gear finished, clean your brush well with turpentine, open your can of paint to be used on the body and paint thoroughly. Thin as before if it is necessary. Paint the outside of the body and seat all around, then the supports to the top, inside of seat and body. After you have done all this, look over the entire job and ascertain whether you have missed any places, it is very likely you have. Touch up these places with the brush.

It will generally take one or two careful goings over and retouching before you complete a thorough job, especially if inexperienced. I do not advise stripping the wagon, as it requires a careful and practiced hand to do it well.

Why Clothes Should Be Boiled.

In the October Woman's Home Companion appears a most interesting article, entitled "The Washing of Clothes." The author gives a complete description of what she considers the best method in soap which expert housekeepers believe in boiling clothes, and she does not believe in boiling them at all. Others believe that clothes are made yellow by boiling. Boiling does not make clothes yellow. Clothes become yellow when they are improperly rinsed, when there is iron in the water, or a deposit of iron is formed from the boiler, or by the use of an impure soap. On the other hand, boiling takes an important part in the dissolution and removal of the soap which expert housekeepers, who know that the soap must be removed if the clothes are to keep their color and wearing qualities, will recognize again in reputable reason why the clothes should be boiled—and boiled after rubbing. In these days of sterilizing, it seems illogical to accept as clean, unboiled clothes."

Burlap Doubled in Price.

The increased price of burlap, owing to the crop shortage, has aroused the peanut packers and fertilizer men, as well as truckmen and users of commercial fertilizers. It is alleged that the war is an excuse for doubling up, but far has not been affected.

Temperature for Churning.

The proper temperature for churning varies at different times of the year, with character of feed, with period of lactation and breed of cows. As a rule the temperature should be about 60 degrees in winter and 65 in summer, and the cream should be held at these temperatures for at least an hour before churning. If the cream is too warm, the butter will come soft and salty. It will have poor keeping quality, and there will be a large loss of fat in the buttermilk. If the cream is too cold it will froth and stick to the churn. It is well to have the temperature so that churning may be accomplished in twenty-five to thirty minutes, and the butter come in firm condition. A daily thermometer should be used in controlling the temperature.

Wheat for Chickens.

Wheat is probably the best grain to feed singly, in Europe and Canada it is more largely fed than any other grain. When mixed with other grains it can get them clean, and when one plump wheat for laying hens, as they contain more protein, and are therefore not so fattening.

FINANCIAL.

The Cotton Market

NEW ORLEANS, September 20.—The situation in the cotton trade was improved last week by the almost general resumption of business in the spot market of the South. Attention was being turned toward opening the local future market, however, was met by opposition on the ground that liquidation of old business was not sufficiently advanced.

The course of spot prices was upward. Little distressed cotton was reported anywhere, farmers generally were firm holders, and the buy-and-hold movement advanced to encourage holders, even if it did not materially better the situation by retiring actual cotton from the market.

This week, more than ever since the European war started, the attention of the local market will be directed to attempts to resume trading on a normal basis. Further rises in the value of spot cotton will be of assistance to those who are putting forward plans for reopening the future market, because it further a high basis for the liquidation of the outstanding long interest.

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Sow Crimson Clover and Save Fertilizer Bills
The indications are that prices of fertilizer the coming season will be much higher than usual, owing to the fact that the supply of fertilizer materials will be largely cut off on account of the European war. This should cause farmers everywhere to put land in crops that will save fertilizer bills. Nothing will do this better than Crimson Clover. It is unquestionably one of the best soil-improvers that can be put in, and wherever it is grown, it gives largely increased crops of corn, cotton and tobacco.

We have secured more liberal supplies of Crimson Clover than was expected and will be able to sell at much more reasonable prices than was anticipated.

WOOD'S CROP SPECIAL gives full and interesting information about the fertilizing value of Crimson Clover, also about other seeds for fall sowing. Write for Crop Special and prices of any seeds required.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,
Seedsmen, - Richmond, Va.

Our Home Company
INCORPORATED 1832.
Virginia Fire & Marine Insurance Co.
WE INVITE YOUR SCRUTINY
AND SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE
Assets - - - - - \$1,730,370.00

FITTING CONCLUSION TO WEEK IN FINANCE

Wall Street Greatly Pleased by Decision to Reopen Railroad Rate Cases.

NEW YORK, September 20.—The decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission to reopen the 6 per cent rate case was accepted in Wall Street as a fitting conclusion to a week of marked improvement in the financial situation. Consideration for the interests of transportation companies was read, also in the abandonment of the tax on freight bills.

The pressing problem presented by the European crisis to American finance continued to be the foreign exchange dislocation. Other consequences of the war calling for attention were the contracted bank clearings, shrinkage in steel specifications and order passing and reduction of dividends, and a general spirit of caution in business and enterprise.

Exchange on London reacted substantially in connection with the provision made for the payment of New York City's foreign obligations, and was a factor in the city's new bonds, and new bonds were offered to exchange operations. Approval by the Federal Reserve Board of the \$100,000 gold fund to relieve the foreign situation resulted with satisfaction.

Bank returns, in response to the comptroller's call, were scanned intently, and satisfaction was expressed with the amount of emergency currency notes still unused.

WHEAT MOVEMENT OFF FARMS BREAKS ALL RECORDS OF U. S.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Chicago, September 20.—The movement of wheat off the farms of the United States broke all records last week as a result of the war. The week's crop was 15,100,000 bushels, with 11,735,000 bushels for a like period last year. A great deal of this wheat was doubtless sold by farmers before the war broke out, but much of it was sold at the higher prices. The movement of wheat in Western Canada was also on a large scale.

The abnormal strength shown in the Liverpool market during the last week. One of the features of the week was the shipment to foreign countries of 232,000 barrels of flour.

W. W. Snow, crop expert, after a week's trip in the winter wheat territory, says a large acreage is being seeded under splendid soil conditions, and that a great deal of the early sown wheat is above the ground and presents a thrifty appearance, also that an increased area is apparent in Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa.

This same crop expert, regarding the corn crop, says that rains at the end of August improved the prospects in the Ohio Valley, and that Illinois, in particular, will have a larger crop than was expected on September 1. Missouri shows no particular change in prospects.

Parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Southern Iowa, the yield will prove disappointing. The corn market has again developed into a bullish situation. Nearly all the big traders to be seen on the long side.

Considerable of this grain last week sold for export and this has caused Argentine corn to be more firmly held. There was a fair improvement in the cash demand for corn and the purchases for export forced the market to a higher level. There was some reaction, however, on profit-taking by longs.

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The First National Bank
With
Capital and Surplus
of
Three Million Dollars
Invites your account, commercial or savings, or both.
Ninth and Main Streets.